



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

LINDA V. PARKER
DIRECTOR

August 1, 2005

Michigan Supreme Court
Supreme Court Clerk
Corbin Davis
P O Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2003-04
Proposed Amendment to Rule 6.412 of the Michigan Court Rules

Dear Mr. Davis,

The Michigan Supreme Court has proposed an amendment to Michigan Court Rule 6.412 Selection of the Jury. The amendment adds language regarding discrimination in the selection process on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights **oppose** the proposed rule amendment.

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission opposes all illegal discrimination, but fails to see the logic or necessity for this proposed amendment. The language of the proposed amendment adds nothing to the procedural safeguards existing case law provides, or to the concept of "a jury of one's peers". However the vagueness and ambiguity of the proposed amendment present many bases for legal challenge.

Finally, the Commission and Department concur with the rationale and analysis outlined in the recommended position of the State Bar of Michigan, Standing Committee on Justice Initiatives, opposing the proposed amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda V. Parker".

Linda V. Parker, Director
Michigan Department of Civil Rights